## REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding

rejections of the present application in view of the following remarks.


Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 31-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The

Office Action alleges that the subject matter of the claims was not described in the

specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the

inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. In

particular, the Examiner alleges that the specification does not describe "sending the status

of the at least one printer to a plurality of computers connected to the print server without

any of the plurality of computers sending a status request." The Office Action alleges that

as disclosed in Figures 6 and 7 and pages 10-12, "the server notifies the status of printer

after requesting and from the client and condition from a server". However, the

Examiner's attention is directed to Figure 7, and the corresponding description thereof at

page 12, lines 5-12. It is clear that when a print job is completed, notification of

completion of the print job is received from the print spooler U21 in step 209. The

required time calculation is recalculated in step 210, and the calculation result is

simultaneously notified to the clients which are physically and logically connected and in

the log in state in step 211. Accordingly, as illustrated in Figure 7, steps 209, 210 and

211, when a print job is finished, the printing time is recalculated and the status of the

printers is sent out to each of the computers that are connected to the print server. It is

clear from the specification that such notification is done without receiving any status request from any of the computers.

Accordingly, at least that portion of the specification provides support for claims 31-34 which indicates that the print server sends the status to the plurality of computers without receiving a status request from any of the plurality of computers.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1, 11, 13, 22, and 24-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,862,404, hereinafter Onaga.

Claim 1 defines a print system that includes a print server, a plurality of printers, and a plurality of computers connected to the print server. The claim further defines the print server as including a job observation module for monitoring and gathering the status of the plurality of printers connected to the print server and sending the gathered status to the plurality of computers.

In the Official Action, the Examiner alleges that the file server 120 of Onaga corresponds to the claimed print server. In addition, the Examiner alleges that the file server of Onaga includes a job observation module for monitoring and gathering the status of the plurality of printers connected to the print server, and sending the gathered status to the plurality of computers. For support for this position, the Examiner relies upon column 4, lines 41-42 and 55-58 and column 6, lines 26-32.

A careful review of the Onaga reference indicates that the file server 120, or possibly one of the workstations 150 does include a device status file. Each of the intelligent peripheral devices 110 of the network report their status to the file server 120 that is maintaining the device status file, and the device status file is updated. This occurs during the "status update process" described in columns 5 and 6 of the Onaga reference.

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Onaga that the file server 120 sends the gathered status to the plurality of computers. At best, Onaga discloses that the device status file is maintained on the file server 120 and is available to the various workstations. In fact, Onaga specifically states that "A process preferably embodied as software and resident in each workstation 150 is preferably provided for reading the device status file (data flow 202 in Fig. 2)." See column 6, lines 28-32. Accordingly, it is a program resident in the workstation 150 that actively seeks out and reads the device status file in the file server 120. There is no teaching or suggestion that the file server actively sends the gathered status to the plurality of computers. Instead, it merely makes it available.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion in Onaga of a *print server* that monitors and gathers the status of a plurality of printers and *sends* the gathered status to the plurality of printers.

With regard to claim 11, the information provided about Onaga in the preceding paragraphs is also relevant. In particular, Onaga does not teach or suggest a method that includes, among other steps, the sending of gathered status of the plurality of printers. Accordingly, claim 11 is also patentable over Onaga.

Claim 13 depends from claim 11, and is thus also patentable over Onaga.

With regard to claim 22, Onaga does not teach or suggest a device for notifying each of the plurality of computers of the gathered status of the plurality of printers. In contrast to claim 22, Onaga merely stores the device status file on the file server 120 and each of the individual workstations is able to read this file when desired.

Accordingly, claim 22 is also patentable over Onaga.

Claims 24-26 depend from claims 1, 11, and 22, respectively, and define the sending of the gathered status as being sent simultaneously to each of the plurality of computers. Concerning this "simultaneous" feature, the Examiner refers to column 4, lines 60-62 and column 6, lines 31-33 of Onaga. However, since, as set forth above, the Onaga file server 120 does not send the gathered status to the workstations 150, there is clearly no teaching or suggestion that such sending occurs simultaneously. Indeed, a careful review of the two sections identified by the Examiner makes no reference to either sending the data to the workstations, or to *simultaneously* sending the data to the workstations.

In the event that the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 24-26 based on Onaga, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide more specific details as to how Onaga "simultaneously" sends the gathered status to the plurality of workstations.

Claim 27 defines a print server that includes a job observation module for monitoring the status of the at least one printer connected to the print server and sending the status to the plurality of computers each time the status of the at least one printer changes. However, as set forth above, Onaga does not teach or suggest that the file server 120 sends the status to the plurality of computers. Furthermore, there is no teaching or

suggestion that such sending occurs each time the status of the at least one printer changes.

At best, Onaga teaches or suggests that the file server 120 maintains a device status file,

which is periodically updated. However, there is not even any teaching or suggestion that

the device status file is updated each time the status of any of the printers changes.

Accordingly, claim 27 is clearly patentable over Onaga.

Claim 29 defines a method of controlling a print system that includes monitoring a

status of at least one printer with a print server and, when the status of the at least one

printer changes, sending the status of the at least one printer to a plurality of computers

connected to the print server.

As set forth above, Onaga does not teach or suggest sending the status to a plurality

of computers. At best, Onaga maintains a device status file, which may be accessed by a

plurality of workstations. Onaga does not teach or suggest the sending of the status of the

at least one printer to the plurality of computers when the status of the at least one printer

changes.

Accordingly, like claim 27, the subject matter of claim 29 is not taught or suggested

by Onaga.

Claims 31 and 33 indicate that the status of at least one printer is monitored by the

print server and is sent to a plurality of computers without receiving a status request from

any of the plurality of computers.

In formulating the rejection of claims 31 and 33, the Examiner alleges that "the

status of the output devices are always updated to all of the workstations, thus, the server

provides the status of all of the output devices to users without receiving a status request

from any of the plurality of computers." However, the Examiner has misquoted the Onaga

reference. Specifically, Onaga states that "The important factor is that the device status

information from the intelligent peripheral devices is stored in a central location from

which all workstations obtain it." Column 4, lines 60-63. In addition, Onaga states that

the "device status files and jobs files are created so that their contents are available to users

at workstations 150." Accordingly, there is clearly no teaching in Onaga of the file server

120 sending the status to a plurality of computers without receiving a status request from

any of the plurality of computers. Making the status available is different from actually

sending the status to the plurality of computers.

Accordingly, claims 31-34 are also patentable over Onaga.

Claims 4 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over Onaga and U.S. Patent No. 5,727,135, issued to Webb et al. The Examiner relies

upon Webb only for its alleged teaching of means for a user of one of a plurality of

computers to postpone a particular print job. Accordingly, Webb does not otherwise

overcome the deficiency of the rejection of the parent claims 1 and 11 based on Onaga.

Claims 6 and 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Onaga and U.S. Patent No. 5,669,040, issued to Hisatake. The

Examiner relies upon Hisatake for its alleged teaching of supplying a waiting time for the

printer. However, as set forth in the responses filed earlier in this application, and in

particular the response filed on April 23, 2002, Hisatake does not teach or suggest the

waiting time, as alleged by the Examiner. Nevertheless, at any rate, Hisatake clearly does

not overcome the deficiency of the rejection of the base claims 1 and 11 based on Onaga. Accordingly, claims 6 and 15-16 are also unpatentable over the cited art.

Claims 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onaga and U.S. Patent No. 6,213,652, issued to Suzuki. The Examiner relies upon Suzuki only for its alleged teaching of computers and print server exchange registration requests and response. Accordingly, Suzuki does not otherwise overcome the deficiency of the rejection of claim 11, from which claims 17-19 depend.

Claims 10, 21, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Onaga and Japanese Patent No. 409212313, hereinafter Hamazaki. However, the Examiner relies upon Hamazaki only for its alleged teaching of a print server that includes means for calculating a waiting time for availability of a printer. However, such a teaching would not overcome the deficiency of the rejection of claim 1 based on Onaga. Accordingly, claim 10 is also patentable over the cited prior art.
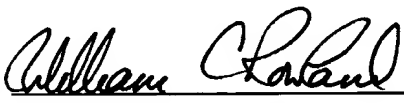
With regard to new claim 35, in Onaga, the device status file is made available to a plurality of computers. And, the file server 120 sends the device status file to one computer (203 in Fig. 2) when requested from the computer (202 in Fig. 2). However, the file server 120 does not send the device status file to the plurality of computers at the same time. Accordingly, claim 35 is patentable over Onaga.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections. In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is

respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the

application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: _William C. Rowland_

William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

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**Attachment to Amendment dated September 9, 2002**

**Mark-Up of the Claims**

27.    (Amended) A print [system,] <u>server to which at least one printer and a</u> <u>plurality of computers are connected, the print server</u> comprising:

[a print server;]

[at least one printer connected to the print server;]

[a plurality of computers connected to the print server;]

[the print server includes] a job observation module for monitoring the status of the at least one printer connected to the print server, and

[sends] <u>a sender for sending</u> the status to the plurality of computers [each time] <u>when</u> the status of the at least one printer changes[; and

each of the computers includes a status monitor for displaying the status].

28.    (Amended) The print [system] <u>server</u> of claim 27, wherein there are a plurality of printers connected to the print server.

31.    (Amended) A print [system,] <u>server to which at least one printer and a</u> <u>plurality of computers are connected, the print server</u> comprising:

[a print server;]

[at least one printer connected to the print server;]

[a plurality of computers connected to the print server;]

**Attachment to Amendment dated September 9, 2002**

[the print server includes] a job observation module for monitoring the status

of the at least one printer connected to the print server, and

[sends] <u>a sender for sending</u> the status to the plurality of computers without

receiving a status request from any of the plurality of computers[; and

each of the computers includes a status monitor for displaying the status].


32.     (Amended)  The print [system] <u>server</u> of claim 31, wherein there are a

plurality of printers connected to the print server.